

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

an information terminal operable to request distribution of information including ~~image information, video information or audio information~~ still picture data, moving picture data or audio data; and

an information provider apparatus operable to provide the information to said information terminal, wherein:

said information terminal is operable to automatically transmit specifications of said information terminal when transmitting an information provision request which requests distribution of the information; and

said information provider apparatus comprises

a receiving unit operable to receive the information provision request and the information terminal specifications transmitted from said information terminal,

a data storage unit operable to store and manage various kinds of information data,

a data detection unit operable to detect data from said data storage unit corresponding to the information provision request received by said receiving unit,

a data conversion unit operable to convert the data detected by said data detection unit to data having a quality which is adaptable to an information reproduction capability of said information terminal which is determined by the information terminal specifications received by said receiving unit, and being in the same data format as the data reproduced by said information terminal and

a transmission unit operable to transmit the data converted by said data conversion unit to said information terminal.

26. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 25, wherein said information provider apparatus further comprises a charge management unit operable to

decide an amount of charges according to contents of the data transmitted to said information terminal, and to charge an information user.

27. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 26, wherein:
said information provider apparatus further comprises a client database operable to store and manage utilization histories of information users; and
said charge management unit is operable to decide an amount of charges according to the utilization history of an information user which is stored in said client database, and contents of the data transmitted to said information terminal, and to charge the information user.

28. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 27, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is still picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a number of reproducible pictures, and a storage capacity.

29. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 27, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is moving picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

30. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 27, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is audio data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a sampling rate, a frequency band, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

31. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 26, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to

said information provider apparatus is still picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a number of reproducible pictures, and a storage capacity.

32. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 26, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is moving picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

33. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 26, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is audio data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a sampling rate, a frequency band, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

34. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 25, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is still picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a number of reproducible pictures, and a storage capacity.

35. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 25, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is moving picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

36. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 25, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is audio data, the specifications of said information

terminal include information of at least one selected from a sampling rate, a frequency band, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

37. (Currently Amended) A data distribution system comprising:

an information terminal operable to request distribution of information including ~~image information, video information or audio information~~ still picture data, moving picture data or audio data; and

an information provider apparatus operable to provide the information to said information terminal, wherein:

said information terminal is operable to automatically transmit an information terminal ID of said information terminal when transmitting an information provision request which requests distribution of the information; and

said information provider apparatus comprises

an information terminal database operable to store and manage the information terminal ID and specifications of said information terminal in correspondence with each other,

a receiving unit operable to receive the information provision request and the information terminal ID transmitted from said information terminal, and to detect the specifications of said information terminal corresponding to the received information terminal ID from said information terminal database,

a data storage unit operable to store and manage various kinds of information data;

a data detection unit operable to detect data from said data storage unit corresponding to the information provision request received by said receiving unit,

a data conversion unit operable to convert the data detected by said data detection unit to data having a quality which is adaptable to an information reproduction capability of said information terminal which is determined by the information terminal specifications detected by said receiving unit, and being in the same data format as the data reproduced by said information terminal, and

a transmission unit operable to transmit the data converted by said data conversion unit to said information terminal.

38. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 37, wherein said information provider apparatus further comprises a charge management unit operable to decide an amount of charges according to contents of the data transmitted to said information terminal, and to charge an information user.

39. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 38, wherein:
said information provider apparatus further comprises a client database operable to store and manage utilization histories of information users; and
said charge management unit is operable to decide an amount of charges according to the utilization history of an information user which is stored in said client database, and contents of the data transmitted to said information terminal, and to charge the information user.

40. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 39, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is still picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a number of reproducible pictures, and a storage capacity.

41. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 39, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is moving picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

42. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 39, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is audio data, the specifications of said information

terminal include information of at least one selected from a sampling rate, a frequency band, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

43. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 38, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is still picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a number of reproducible pictures, and a storage capacity.

44. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 38, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is moving picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

45. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 38, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is audio data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a sampling rate, a frequency band, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

46. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 37, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is still picture data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a number of reproducible pictures, and a storage capacity.

47. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 37, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is moving picture data, the specifications of said

information terminal include information of at least one selected from a number of pixels, a tone, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.

48. (Previously Presented) The data distribution system of Claim 37, wherein when a target for the information provision request transmitted from said information terminal to said information provider apparatus is audio data, the specifications of said information terminal include information of at least one selected from a sampling rate, a frequency band, a compression ratio, a reproduction time, and a storage capacity.